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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 EA-10 AID-05 IO-13
/075 W
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R 030900Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7197
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0761

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PDIP, BY
SUBJ: BURUNDI INDEPENDENCE DAY

1. BURUNDI CELEBRATED SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE JULY 1 WITH FOUR HOUR LONG CEREMONIES AT PRINCE LOUIS RWAGASORE STADIUM IN MORNING AND TWO HOUR RECEPTION BY PRESIDENT AND MADAM BAGAZA IN EVENING.

2. MORNING CEREMONIES WHICH FOLLOWED WREATH LAYING AT INDEPDENDENCE MONUMENT INCLUDED PARADE BY 30 COMPANIES OF INFANTRY TOTALLING ABOUT 2,100 MEN AND SEVERAL TIMES THAT MANY STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. THOUSANDS WATCHED FROM THE BLEACHERS. PLACARDS CARRIED BY MARCHERS WERE UNREMARKABLE, ONLY TWO OF ANY INTEREST READING ALONG LINES OF "DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM" AND "OAU SOLE ARBITER OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS".

3. PRESIDENT BAGAZA MADE THIRTY MINUTE SPEECH IN KIRUNDI WITHOUT NOTES AND WITH CONSIDERABLE ANIMATION BUT EVOKED ONLY OCCASIONAL SCATTERED APPLAUSE. MANY
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SPECTATORS IN THE BLEACHERS BEGAN DRIFTING AWAY DURING THE SPEECH AND CONTINUED TO DO SO DURING THE PERFORMANCE BY DANCERS AND DRUMMERS WHICH FOLLOWED.

4. EVENING RECEPTION INCLUDED CHIEFS OF MISSIONS, HEADS OF UN AGENCIES AND FOREIGN AID REPRESENTATIVES, MOST OF FRENCH MILITARY MISSION, NUMEROUS CHINESE

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TECHNICIANS, LOCAL FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN, FOREIGN ADVISORS
TO MINISTRIES AND MANY BURUNDI CIVIL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS.

5. COMMENT: CEREMONIES WERE WELL ORGANIZED AND EXECUTED
BUT ADDED UP ESSENTIALLY TO A SHOW OF SOLIDARITY AND A
SHOW OF FORCE BY THE BUJUMBURA TUTSI ESTABLISHEMENT.
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